



ABOVE • The renovation of Bldg. 3 will retain some architectural features. See story below.

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King's Lessons Are Not Past, but Present

By Valerie Lambros

More than 40 years after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the country has surely come a long way. However, as the keynote speaker of the NIH presentation to observe the civil rights leader's birthday pointed out, there is much work to be done.

The NIH event celebrating King's life and work was kicked off by a performance by musicians from the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz and headlined by author and sociologist Dr. Michael Eric Dyson.



NIH director Dr. Francis Collins opened the event by reflecting on King's message of service to others. Recalling a famous King quote, Collins said, "We all must decide whether we will walk in the light of creative altruism, or the darkness of destructive selfishness." Dr. Vivian Pinn, director of

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Dr. Michael Eric Dyson gives the keynote lecture at NIH's annual King celebration.

'Decommissioned' Bldg. 3 Gets Ready to Shine Again

By Valerie Lambros

Facelifts aren't common treatments at NIH. Unless you're talking about buildings.

Bldg. 3, a structure in what NIH considers one of its two historic districts, is not only getting some cosmetic updates to its exterior, but also a full interior overhaul. Once used as laboratory space, the building will soon be re-tasked as administrative offices. But making the building ready for this shift in purpose hasn't come without challenges.

"A building with so much rich architectural character, you can't tear it down, although that would be much easier," said Dexroy Chisim, an architect in ORF's Capital Projects Branch who will manage design and construction phases of the renovation. "So we have to modernize the building's interior and restore the exterior with the exact same features [it used to have]."

However, the job won't be that simple. Decommissioned in 2002, Bldg. 3 and its renovation

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U.S.-India Research Collaboration Addresses HIV, STDs

By David Taylor

U.S. and Indian scientists gathered recently at NIH to review progress on international research collaborations in the area of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Asia, home to 60 percent of the world's population, is second only to sub-Saharan Africa in terms of the number of people living with HIV, according to the latest U.N. statistics. India accounts for roughly half of Asia's HIV prevalence.

This session of the U.S.-India joint working group on prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS was the first opportunity for researchers to report on progress made under grants awarded since the program began in 2006. The initiative is part of the implementation of the U.S.-Indo joint statement on collaboration on prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS signed by the HHS Secretary and

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briefs

Orioles and Nationals Ticket Sale

The R&W will once again offer tickets to the Baltimore Orioles and Washington Nationals. Orioles tickets go on sale Tuesday, Feb. 23 in Bldg. 31, Rm. B1W30 (outside the R&W gift shop) at 8 a.m. Available are two regular season tickets (2 seats behind first base—section 14BBB seats 7-8) and tickets for 13 Sunday games (4 seats behind third base—section 58MM). You may buy one set of tickets the first time through the line. After the initial line ends you may come back through again to purchase additional tickets. Arrive early to join the queue if you have a particular game in mind.

Nationals tickets go on sale on Thursday, Feb. 25 in the Bldg. 31 R&W gift shop, also at 8 a.m. R&W has 4 seats in section 219, row D. The process to purchase tickets will be the same as for Orioles tickets. You must be a 2010 R&W member to buy tickets. Membership is \$7 for the year and can be purchased at the same time you get tickets.

String Quartet Series Continues

The Manchester String Quartet Concert Series continues this winter and spring at NIH. Concerts are free and begin at 12:30 p.m. in Masur Auditorium, Bldg. 10. Future concert dates, all on Mondays, are: Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr. 5 and May 10.

The series is made possible by the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences. For reasonable accommodation needs, contact Sharon Greenwell at (301) 496-4713 or email sg115f@nih.gov.

'Hutch' To Run NCI Contact Center

The National Cancer Institute recently announced the selection of a single organization for a multiple-year contract award to operate its Cancer Information Service (CIS) Contact Center. The program will be located at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle and will serve the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the U.S.-associated Pacific Territories.

The Contact Center provides information to the public through a toll-free telephone number, 1-800-4CANCER, and by email in English and Spanish and through LiveHelp instant messaging on NCI's web site, www.cancer.gov. NCI's CIS is the federal government's source for the latest, most accurate cancer information for the public, patients and their families and health professionals. For more than 30 years it has been pro-

viding up-to-date scientifically based information in easy to understand language. The contract also provides for smoking cessation counseling via NCI's Smoking Quitline (1-877-44U-QUIT). The Contact Center handles over 100,000 inquiries annually and has responded to over 10 million callers since its inception in 1976.

Facility Wins 2009 Excellence in Recycling Award

5635 Fishers Lane in Rockville, one of NIH's satellite facilities, recently received the Excellence in Recycling Award for its 2008 recycling rates. It was one of 26 sites to receive the honor, which is given to businesses and organizations that recycle at least 50 percent of their waste.

The achievement was due to full participation from employees, management and cleaning staff. Each year, large and medium-sized businesses within the county are required to fill out a report on the weight of each recyclable material collected. Recycling of mixed paper, cardboard, commingled materials, yard trim, Christmas trees and scrap metal is required for both residents and businesses in Montgomery County.

Within the Fishers Lane offices, employees have separate small bins for trash and recyclables. The cleaning staff takes the materials to the loading dock and sorts them into paper and commingled bins. There are also containers located throughout the building, including the cafeteria, for paper and commingled materials. For recycling information at NIH, call (301) 496-7990.

Grease Is Coming to National Theatre

Grease, Time magazine's 2007 pick for "#1 musical of the year," is traveling the country in a new production direct from Broadway, starring *American Idol* winner Taylor Hicks as Teen Angel. Tickets for the Thursday, Feb. 11 show at 7:30 p.m. are on sale at all NIH/NOAA R&W stores for \$71 (reg. \$76.50) and will be located in the orchestra and mezzanine levels.

Marquez To Be SACNAS President



NIGMS contractor Dr. Ernest D. Marquez was recently named president-elect of the 20,000-member Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science. He retired from NIH in 2007 after working at NINR, NIGMS and later NIMH.

nih record

NHLBI Hosts Stem Cell Symposium

An international array of more than 500 stem cell experts gathered on the NIH campus last fall to participate in the third Symposium on Cardiovascular Regenerative Medicine, an event hosted by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

During the symposium held at Natcher Auditorium, scientists discussed the latest advances in cardiovascular stem cell research and considered which questions still need to be answered.

"Research results are really taking off," said then-NHLBI director Dr. Elizabeth Nabel during her keynote presentation that touched on the state of the field. She outlined NHLBI's roadmap for stem cell research, which includes funding efforts such as the recently announced Progenitor Cell Biology Consortium. The consortium involves 18 teams of researchers working to develop the high-potential field of stem and progenitor cell tools and therapies.

Several talks examined advances in embryonic human stem cells as well as induced pluripotent stem (IPS) cells, which are artificially derived human stem cells that can give rise to any fetal or adult cell type. These types of genetic tools could one day help the heart heal itself following a heart attack, Nabel said.

While IPS cells are a hot research topic, questions remain about how they compare to embryonic stem cells.

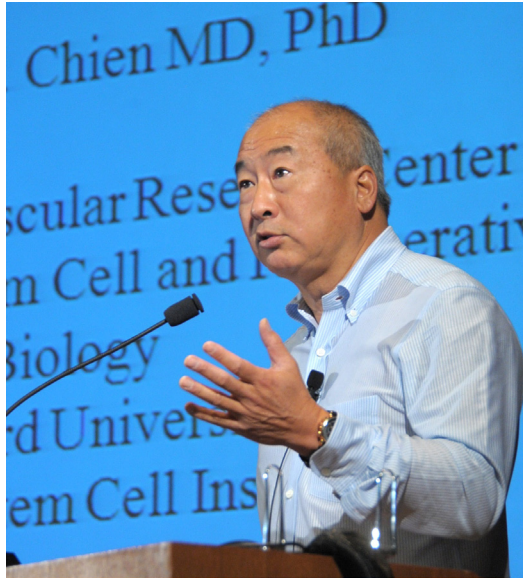
"We clearly need to know more about the similarities and differences between human embryonic stem cells and induced pluripotent stem cells," Nabel said. Detailing the differences will be vital before moving into human clinical trials to test future therapies using IPS cells.

Dr. Kenneth R. Chien, a researcher from Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University, discussed the potential of IPS cells during his symposium talk. He leads a team of researchers participating in the Progenitor Cell Biology Consortium.

Using IPS cells, Chien's research team created heart muscle cells that beat like a heart. If researchers find a way to apply this technology to humans, it could help the adult human heart grow new tissue.

"We are on our way to making a biological pace maker," Chien said of the potential application of such research efforts.


Dr. Bernard Kuhn, a researcher from the Children's Hospital Boston and Harvard Medical



Left:

Dr. Kenneth R. Chien of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University discusses the potential for induced pluripotent stem cells to help repair the heart during the recent Symposium on Regenerative Cardiovascular Medicine.

School, discussed his research, which suggests that it may be possible to coerce existing adult heart muscle cells into reproducing.

For years, scientists questioned whether the adult heart had the capacity to produce new muscle cells at all. Recent research suggests that small numbers of muscle cells in the heart renew, but not enough to heal major damage. This line of research could lead to ways to encourage more new heart tissue growth, which could help replace damaged muscle tissue following a heart attack, Kuhn explained. 



NIBIB Answers Call to Service

The National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering has responded to the President's call to improve our community through service by initiating the NIBIB Service Program. The program brings the NIBIB team together through community service events. Its inaugural event supported local families with gifts of toys in time for the holidays. NIBIB employees were invited to participate in this event by purchasing, wrapping or delivering toys. Shown above are (from l) Mary Pitonak, Casey Stewart, Angela Eldridge, Mary Rodgers, Chris Davis, Zohara Cohen, Mary Beth Kester, Stephanie Sabourin, Ryan Gebbia, Albert Lee, Brenda Korte, Barbara Cantilena and Grace Peng.

PHOTO: JUDE GUSTAFSON



U.S.-INDIA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Above:

The meeting of the U.S.-India joint working group on prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS included (from l) India's Secretary of Biotechnology Dr. M.K. Bhan, OAR director Dr. Jack Whitescarver, India's Secretary of Health Research Dr. V.M. Katoch and FIC director Dr. Roger Glass.

PHOTO: MICHAEL SPENCER

the Indian Minister of Health.

The working group was established to develop research collaborations and facilitate the expedited review and clearances of funded bilateral projects. The meeting included working group members, U.S. and Indian representatives of the panel of scientists appointed to review the research proposals, NIH program staff and scientists whose projects received awards.

"This has been a successful 2 years with a lot of work on both sides," observed Dr. Jack Whitescarver, director of the NIH Office of AIDS Research and the JWG's co-chair, who congratulated the researchers and program personnel. OAR coordinates AIDS research conducted by every NIH institute and center and established this program to promote collaborations between U.S. and Indian scientists on HIV/AIDS research.

Nine ICs are participating in the effort, which has three components: to make awards to extramural researchers, to support intramural labs at NIH to expand their collaborations with Indian counterparts and to support workshops and meetings that encourage collaboration and information sharing.

This collaborative program awarded 16 extramural grant supplements in 2007, six grants for exploratory research in 2008, and supported a total of seven intramural projects in 2007 and 2008, ranging across the behavioral and biological sciences. In just 2 years the funded researchers have already produced findings on risk behaviors and further opportunities for HIV prevention and treatment.

Dr. V.M. Katoch, secretary of India's Health

Research Department and the meeting's co-chair, called the program "very productive and very vibrant" and "a unique opportunity from the Indian side."

"This is an exciting meeting," said Fogarty International Center director Dr. Roger Glass, "and comes at a wonderful and propitious time." Global health ranks among the top priorities for NIH director Dr. Francis Collins, Glass noted, and the new U.S. administration has committed itself to India, Glass told the 50 participants and observers.

Besides beginning to yield new research directions, the program has strengthened a corps of researchers working on HIV/AIDS through a number of workshops and meetings including, for example, a session on prevention, care and treatment of HIV-related co-morbidities. Additional training was provided through a grantsmanship workshop for new investigators held in New Delhi.

Meeting participants discussed other ways that the program could foster a new generation of HIV/AIDS research teams. Officials from both governments agreed that short-term training exchanges can help expand the pool of researchers. OAR has piloted the Intramural-to-India (I-to-I) Program to draw on NIH's broad internal expertise in HIV/AIDS research and widen the network of NIH scientists working with Indian researchers.

"The I-to-I program has demonstrated how much interest there is in this collaborative program," said Dr. M.K. Bhan, secretary of India's Biotechnology Department.

Both the U.S. and Indian government members of the working group agreed to continue the research partnership and are discussing possible initiatives for the next phase of the collaboration.

The Indian delegation's visit also included meetings with NIH leadership including Collins and several IC directors, meetings on maternal and child health and vaccine research and an interactive session with NIH visiting fellows. ❷

NIAID Supports International Bioinformatics Workshops

By Leslie Karen Kinney

NIAID is leaving a global footprint as it develops international partnerships in the study of infectious diseases through the use of bioinformatics and computational biology technologies. Mike Tartakovsky, director of NIAID's Office of Cyber Infrastructure and Computational Biology, and Dr. Yentram Huyen, chief of the office's Bioinformatics and Computational Biosciences Branch, recently delivered a keynote address at the first joint conference of the International Society for Computational Biology and the African Society for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology held in Bamako, Mali. Scholars and professionals from the United States and 24 African and European countries attended presentations and workshops focused on bioinformatics of infectious diseases.

"The conference was a resounding success," Tartakovsky said. "It was a great opportunity to learn from colleagues from around the world and share with them our experiences in building a bioinformatics and computational biology program and supporting infrastructure."

The conference provided participants with the tools and information to enable them to develop or maintain bioinformatics programs in their respective countries. Tartakovsky and Huyen spoke about the challenges of building a sustainable bioinformatics program and shared best practices. "Pulling bioinformatics and information technology under the same umbrella provides an unprecedented opportunity for cross communication and collaboration," Tartakovsky said.

In the company of sponsors such as King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, the Wellcome Trust and the European Molecular Biology Network, NIAID's sponsorship included providing IT equipment and network connectivity, making possible the numerous workshops that covered topics ranging from the functional, structural and comparative genomics of pathogens to database and resource development for infectious disease research.

Field visits to the Laboratory of Malaria and Vector Research and the Laboratory of Malaria Immunology and Vaccinology sites located in villages outside of Bamako by Tartakovsky and other NIAID conference participants yielded the opportunity to observe the impact made on the research sites by the infrastructure developed and maintained by NIAID's Global Bio-



NIAID's Michael Tartakovsky (third from l) visits the Agence National de Telemedicine et Informatique Medical (ANTIM) of the Ministry of Health while attending the International Bioinformatics Festival held recently in Bamako, Mali. Shown with him are (from l) Tidiani Togola; Dr. Danaya Kone; director of ANTIM Dr. Ousamane Ly; ANTIM Deputy Director Madame Cisse Anta Sidibe; and Christopher Whalen of NIAID's Global Biomedical Research Support Program.



At left:

NIAID technical staff members (from l) Sidy Soumare, Amadou Diallo, Brian Moyer and Moses Mubiru install computer workstations used in International Bioinformatics Festival workshops.

PHOTOS: CHRISTOPHER WHALEN

medical Research Support Program headed by Christopher Whalen.

"The NIH international research mission provides critical support for some global health initiatives and I am happy to be a part of NIAID's contribution," Whalen said. "NIAID's sponsorship of events such as the international bioinformatics festival builds global research capacity aiding the fight against diseases such as HIV, malaria and tuberculosis that kill millions every year."

Tartakovsky will return to Mali for the dedication of a new research center named for the late Dr. John LaMontagne, a former NIAID deputy director who led the effort for the development of the Mali Service Center. ⑦



KING OBSERVANCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Above:

Speaking at the MLK observance on Jan. 7 were (from l) keynoter Dyson, NIH director Dr. Francis Collins, ORWH director Dr. Vivian Pinn and FIC director Dr. Roger Glass.

Below:

Musicians from the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz entertained at the event.

PHOTOS: ERNIE BRANSON

the Office of Research on Women's Health, then introduced the speaker, proudly carrying an autographed copy of Dyson's second book, a gift she received when they first met on an airplane.

"You're in for a treat," she said.

Dyson, a professor of sociology at Georgetown University, is now the author of 16 books, most on topics that reflect on the African-American experience of the last 50 years. He can talk about theology, literature, social justice or the struggles of people of color or meager means with equal passion and expertise. He's also an ordained minister of the Baptist church who has been described as being a "talented rhetorical acrobat." He brought all these strengths to bear when he spoke to an enthusiastic crowd on Jan. 7 in Natcher's main auditorium.

"They told me I have about 20 to 25 minutes. I usually take that long to warm up," he said. Then, like a preacher, he continued in a rolling cadence: "I'm going to have to hit the runway and take off. It might be turbulent on the take off, so put your seat belts on 'cause we're gonna ride high."

Speaking in front of a backdrop of an image of King, Dyson reminded everyone of the profound legacy of the man who

gave his life for the cause of advancing the civil rights of all Americans.

"I think about the incredible character of this man...[and] the vigilance we should maintain in the absence of his body but the presence of his spirit, to recall the radical challenge that Dr.

King delivered to America," he said. "It is not simply 'I Have a Dream' that should be recalled. We have to remember all of what Dr. King did."

Dyson urged audience members to speak out against injustice wherever it is found and to push for equality in all aspects of American life.

"We've got to challenge the sexism, the homophobia, the ageism," along with standing up for the rights of the poor and less advantaged, he said. King "was willing to give his blood. He gave up all of his money like few of us will ever do. Sacrificing the way few of us will. He was the moral leader of a nation that refused to accept his humanity and he fought on behalf of those who would never be celebrated."

His voice rising to a fever pitch, Dyson implored the audience to live King's message every day and keep vigilant in the struggle to improve the lives of others.

"You and I must work for the day when we can tether hope and courage and make the possibility of transformation the reality of the dream that Dr. King had," he boomed, adding quietly, "God bless you," to thunderous applause.

The jazz ensemble played another piece and for closing remarks, Dr. Roger Glass, director of the Fogarty International Center, took the stage.

"I don't think I've ever heard such a magnificent presentation," he said.

As the event wound to a close, Dyson was surrounded by people who wanted to shake his hand and take his picture.

"This kind of talk leaves you intellectually full. It's like a good educational meal, a lot of food for thought," said Leslie Saint-Julien, office manager for the Laboratory of Cellular and Developmental Biology, NIDDK, who was hearing Dyson speak for the second time. "It's clear the work is not done." 🍌





Dr. Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz

Lippincott-Schwartz To Give Rodbell Lecture at NIEHS

Dr. Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz will present the annual Rodbell Lecture on Feb. 9 at NIEHS. The talk on "Advances in Super-Resolution Imaging" begins at 2 p.m. in the Rall Bldg. with an introduction by NIEHS transmembrane signaling group principal investigator and lecture host Dr. Lutz Birnbaumer.

Lippincott-Schwartz is chief of the section on organelle biology in the Cell Biology and Metabolism Branch, NICHD.

Her lab is responsible for technical breakthroughs ranging from the introduction of confocal fluorescence recovery after photobleaching to the creation of a photoactivatable form of green fluorescent protein that is invisible until activated by UV light, allowing unprecedented precision in quantifying and tracking protein populations. The group also played a key role in developing the super-resolution imaging technique of photoactivated localization microscopy, which overcomes the diffraction barrier in fluorescence microscopy.

Lippincott-Schwartz is the 12th speaker in the annual lecture series honoring Nobel laureate and former NIEHS scientific director Dr. Martin Rodbell. The first Rodbell Lecture featured Rodbell himself shortly before his death in 1998. 🗳



Management interns from the classes of 2010-2011 include (front, from l) Fred James, David Cabrera and Nicholas DiCrosta. At rear are (from l) Christine Salaita, Jennifer Dreier, Meredith McArdle, Nicole Irby, Natasha Pierre and Barbara Lesser.

Management Intern Program Recruits Class of 2012

The NIH Training Center has announced its recruitment season for management interns. The Management Intern Program has been grooming and developing highly motivated NIH employees for more than 50 years. This 2-year career development program gives employees the opportunity to take rotations of 3 to 6 months in various career tracks in NIH public service. Graduates of the program move into new career paths and many former interns have gone on to hold high-level managerial positions at NIH.

Management interns gain insight into the inner workings of NIH in career tracks in budget and finance, program and management analysis, grants management, contracts/procurement, information technology, human resources and general administration as well as other areas such as science policy and communications. Applicants will be considered from both the administrative and scientific realms, from travel planners to biologists. The ideal candidate should be looking to gain skills in project management and evaluation, analysis and presentation, negotiation, problem-solving, communication and leading teams.

The job vacancy announcement for the MI program opens on Feb. 12 and closes on Mar. 12. Positions are offered at the GS-5, 7, 9 and 11 grade levels. To be eligible to apply, candidates must be U.S. citizens willing to work full time and currently employed at NIH for at least 12 months. Additional eligibility guidelines, FAQs and application information are available at www.jobs.nih.gov/intern/about.html.

To learn more about the Management Intern Program, potential applicants are invited to attend one of the upcoming information sessions, all from 12-1 p.m.:

- Feb. 5, Rockledge II, Rm. 9112/9116
- Feb. 10, Bldg. 10, Hatfield 2 Rm. 3330
- Feb. 17, Bldg. 31, Rm. 6C10
- Feb. 23, Neuroscience/B1-B2 (6001 Executive Blvd.)
- Mar. 2, Bldg. 31/6C06, with NIEHS/Bldg. 101 in North Carolina, live videoconference (sign up from NIEHS by writing MI_Info@mail.nih.gov)

Individuals who need reasonable accommodation to participate in a session should contact Matt Espina at espinamt@mail.nih.gov, the TTY at (301) 594-2696 or the Federal Relay at 1-800-877-8339. 🗳



BLDG. 3

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Above:

At left, concrete floors and bare brick walls are all there is to see inside the historic structure.

At right, the stately Bldg. 3 awaits some much-needed refurbishing and renovation.

Below:

Dexroy Chisim, the architect who will manage the design and construction phases of the project, talks about how much work will be necessary to make the building suitable for office space.

PHOTOS: VALERIE LAMBROS

are now subject to post-9/11 security measures to ensure federal buildings can better withstand blasts and bomb threats. That means the building's historic windows will need to be replaced with blast-proof glass. However, as the building also falls under historic codes, the windows must also retain their vintage design—no small feat.

Loading dock walls will be strengthened, a surveillance system will be installed and a security gate will restrict vehicle movement at the back of the building. The crumbling mortar between exterior bricks will be replaced, decorative ironwork and scroll detailing will be refurbished and even the old copper light sconces will go back up after they've been restored.

With this renovation, the building will also become ADA-compliant, adding an access ramp to the side of the front door, expanding the size of restrooms, installing an elevator and several other items Chisim says are old hat.



"It's standard code stuff," he said. "For someone like me who's done this for years, it's like putting on your shoes."

However, that's just the beginning. Built in 1938 from the same appropriation that built Bldgs. 1 and 2, the structure was used mostly for labs and animal housing, a far cry from its future incarnation: office space for at least 4 ICs.

To get it ready for so much change, the building had to be gutted. That meant pulling up floor tiles, pulling down interior walls and ceilings and removing old plumbing, ventilation and electrical systems. Concrete floors, support pillars and exposed brick walls are now all you see inside the building—a shell of its former self.

But Chisim feels good about the drastic changes because by pulling out the old, he'll be able to put in the new and raise a phoenix from the ashes. He talks about the building with fatherly pride.

"It's a living, breathing being," he said, running his hand over a section of brick wall that has stood for more than 70 years. "It's designed to house us. Of course it's alive."

The only real foe Chisim faces is time, but it's not because the building is in any danger. Even in its current form, the building isn't going anywhere. But many times, people do.

"We had done a preliminary plan [for occupancy] years ago, but we needed to go back and verify that plan," said Cyrena Simons, research facilities coordinator at ORF. She and other planning personnel met with staff of various ICs who had been placed temporarily in sites such as the Clinical Center, and recorded who needed what space.



A historic copper light fixture will need some polishing before it can be re-attached at the building's front door.

"We went back and met with them, and some of them no longer had their administrative people," said Simons. "From a facilities perspective, 5 years is short term, and from a research perspective, 2 years is long term, so it's a challenge."

For the moment, NIAID, NIDDK, NHLBI and NCI have committed to locating staff in the building. Other space will be held in reserve until a purpose presents itself. The entire project is estimated to take about 18 months.

"The building makes for lovely office space," said Simons, using the renovated Bldg. 2—a near mirror image of Bldg. 3—as a reference point. "High ceilings, big windows...it's going to be a good building."

While he waits to see what the ICs really need in their work spaces so it can be woven into the engineering drawings, Chisim can't help but speak admirably of Bldg. 3, despite its rusting decorative ironwork, peeling paint and ubiquitous warning signs directing folks away from the work zone.

"Once we clean up that façade, it's actually a nice-looking building." 🗨️

Kumar Named New IRG Chief

The Center for Scientific Review recently named Dr. Rajiv Kumar as new chief of the musculo-skeletal, oral and skin sciences integrated review group (MOSS), after he successfully served as its acting chief since January 2009.

"Dr. Kumar demonstrated impressive leadership through challenging times for MOSS," said CSR director Dr. Toni Scarpa, referring to Kumar's contributions during review of grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

In addition to his new role, Kumar will continue serving as scientific review officer for CSR's electrical signaling, ion transport and arrhythmias study section.

Kumar has a Ph.D. in chemistry from India's Kanpur University and Central Drug Research Institute, where he studied the neural regulation of heart function. Before joining NIH in 2003, he conducted postdoctoral research in the department of pediatrics at Emory University, where he later served as assistant professor of pediatrics and research director of the Todd Franklin Cardiac Research Laboratory. He has conducted extensive research on the regulation of ion channels in heart cells.



Duffy To Lead New NIAID Laboratory

Dr. Patrick Duffy has been appointed chief of the newly established Laboratory of Malaria Immunology and Vaccinology (LMIV) in NIAID's Division of Intramural Research. He is former director of the malaria program at Seattle Biomedical Research Institute (SBRI) and affiliate professor of pathobiology at the University of Washington. His research accomplishments include describing how malaria develops during pregnancy, defining the benefits of antibodies that protect pregnant women and their fetuses from malaria and pioneering the use of functional genomics tools to study malaria parasites in the field.

As chief of LMIV, Duffy leads a team studying the immunology of populations at risk of malaria infection to develop more effective strategies for vaccination. He also oversees LMIV's pilot vaccine production and testing initiatives, which enable multiple vaccine candidates to move from concept to clinical trials.

Prior to working at SBRI, Duffy was director of preclinical vaccine development in the malaria program at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and he served as chief of field research operations at the WRAIR station in Kisumu, Kenya, for 4 years. He received his postdoctoral training in malaria research at NIAID after earning his medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine.



Just Over Half of Americans Diagnosed with Major Depression Receive Care

Overall, only about half of Americans diagnosed with major depression in a given year receive treatment for it, and even fewer—about one fifth—receive treatment consistent with current practice guidelines, according to data from nationally representative surveys supported by NIMH. Among the ethnic/racial groups surveyed, African Americans and Mexican Americans had the lowest rates of use of depression care; all groups reported higher use of past-year psychotherapy vs. medication for depression.

Depression is a leading cause of disability in the United States. Past research has found that many people with depression never received treatment and that the percentage of those receiving treatment varies with ethnicity and race. NIMH's Collaborative Psychiatric Epidemiology Surveys initiative used combined data from three nationally representative studies to reach conclusions published in the *Archives of General Psychiatry* in January.

A central finding was that overall, 51 percent of all those in the study who met criteria for major depression during the prior year received some kind of treatment for it, with only 21 percent receiving care that was consistent with the American Psychiatric Association guidelines for the treatment of patients with major depressive disorder.

Small Changes in Protein Chemistry Play Large Role in Huntington's Disease

In Huntington's disease, a mutated protein in the body becomes toxic to brain cells. Recent studies have demonstrated that a small region adjacent to the mutated segment plays a major role in the toxicity. Two new studies supported by NIH show that very slight changes to this region can eliminate signs of Huntington's disease in mice.

Researchers do not fully understand why the protein (called mutant huntingtin) is toxic, but one clue is that it accumulates in ordered

clumps of fibrils, perhaps clogging up the cells' internal machinery.

"These studies shed light on the structure and biochemistry of the mutant huntingtin protein and on potentially modifiable factors that affect its toxicity," said Dr. Margaret Sutherland, a program director at NINDS. "They reveal sites within the huntingtin protein and within broader disease pathways that could serve as targets for drug therapy."

Both studies were published in late December, one in the *Journal of Cell Biology* and the other in *Neuron*.


Gene Mutations Reveal Potential New Targets For Treating Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Researchers have discovered genetic mutations that may contribute to the development of an aggressive form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. These findings provide insight into a mechanism that cancer cells may use to survive, thus identifying potential new targets for treatment of the disease. The study, conducted by researchers at NCI, NIAID and NHGRI and their colleagues, appeared Jan. 7 in *Nature*.

Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) originates in B cells, which are antibody-producing immune cells and one of the body's key defense mechanisms. DLBCL is the most common form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and represents about 30 percent of newly diagnosed cases. There are different subtypes of DLBCL that vary biologically and differ significantly in their rates of patient survival following chemotherapy. The activated B cell-like (ABC) subtype is the least responsive to currently available therapies.

When a normal B cell encounters a foreign substance, proteins on the cell surface known as B cell receptors (BCR) activate signaling pathways that tell the cell to survive and proliferate. Previous research had suggested that BCR signaling might contribute to the development of lymphomas; however, direct genetic and functional evidence was lacking.

"Our data provide important evidence that BCR signaling plays a crucial role in ABC DLBCL," said study senior author Dr. Louis Staudt of NCI's Center for Cancer Research. "As such, this study opens up a wealth of therapeutic opportunities for this type of lymphoma and may eventually lead to clinical trials testing agents that target components of the BCR signaling pathway."



Overall, only about half of Americans diagnosed with major depression in a given year receive treatment for it, and even fewer—about one fifth—receive treatment consistent with current practice guidelines, says an NIMH-supported study.



PHOTO: STEVE MCCAWE

NIEHS's Birnbaum Elected to Collegium Ramazzini

NIEHS and National Toxicology Program director Dr. Linda Birnbaum received notification in December of her election as a fellow of the Collegium Ramazzini headquartered in Carpi, Italy. The letter from Collegium Ramazzini secretary general Dr. Morando Soffritti praised Birnbaum for her "scientific stature and authority" and "commitment to the public's health."

Birnbaum described her election as "a great honor" and said she looks forward to working with this prestigious group.

With 180 fellows in 30 countries, the Collegium Ramazzini is an international scientific society that examines critical issues in occupational and environmental health with a view towards action to prevent disease and promote health. The fellows are professionals of personal distinction and integrity, distinguished by their contributions to occupational and environmental health.

Birnbaum is one of a group of current and former NIEHS scientists who are Collegium Ramazzini fellows. Among the several fellows who are NIEHS grantees is Dr. Philip Landrigan, who serves as Collegium Ramazzini president.



NIMH's Schulze Receives German Neuroscience Prize

Dr. Thomas G. Schulze (c), assistant director of clinical research in NIMH's unit on the genetic basis of mood and anxiety disorders, was recently awarded the Hans-Jörg-Weitbrecht Award for Clinical Neuroscience during the annual meeting of the German Association for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy (DGPPN). The honor was presented by Prof. Wolfgang Maier (l) of the University of Bonn and member of the DGPPN board of directors and Dr. Jörg Czekalla (r) of Bayer Schering Pharma. Since its establishment in 1985, the honor has been considered one of the most prestigious German awards for neuroscience. Schulze was cited for his "outstanding contributions in the field of the identification of the genetic basis of psychiatric disorders, using innovative genetic-statistical tools and detailed characterization of the psychopathological picture."



Volunteer To Teach English

The Volunteer Program for English Proficiency (VPEP) holds weekly classes, Monday-Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Bldgs. 31 and 10. The program hopes to recruit new volunteers. Volunteer instructors do not need to have teaching experience or know another language. All teaching materials and training will be provided. The only requirement is a commitment to teach class during one lunch period every week. If interested, contact Maria G. Hessie (Maria.Hessie@nih.gov) for more information. VPEP also has sites at Rockledge (which opened Jan. 11) and Executive Plaza South (which opened Sept. 21, 2008) but both venues are currently fully staffed.

Pioglitazone Severe Asthma Clinical Trial

Patients with severe asthma may be eligible to participate in a study at the Clinical Research Center. The purpose of the study is to determine if a widely used agent for diabetes can improve asthma. Eligible patients will receive a comprehensive evaluation. There is no cost for participating in the study. For more information, contact our research coordinator, toll free, at 1-877-NIH-LUNG (1-877-644-5864), ext. 2 or via email at LungStudy@nhlbi.nih.gov. You may also contact the NIH Patient Recruitment and Public Liaison Office via TTY 1-866-411-1010.

Eczema Skin Study in Children

The Eczema Skin Study looks at how microbes such as bacteria and fungi contribute to the skin condition of atopic dermatitis, or eczema. The study needs children ages 2-12 with eczema who have a primary care physician and who are willing to travel to the Clinical Center. Interested individuals who are eligible to participate will have their skin evaluated and sampled, as well as have a consultation with a board-certified dermatologist. A small blood sample will be collected. Qualified participants will receive compensation for their time. For more information to see if your child qualifies, call 1-888-NIH-DERM.

Front-Row Seat for 6 Decades of Change
**After 62 Years at NIH, Jackson Retires
From Federal Career**

By Carla Garnett

Flashback to 1948. President Harry S. Truman was in the White House. Dr. Rolla Dyer was director of the National Institute of Health, part of the Federal Security Agency in the Department of Labor. On Monday, Jan. 12 of that year, 18-year-old Clarence Jackson, fresh-faced and eager, reports to the campus's Bldg. 6 to begin a career that will extend nearly 3 times as long as the average NIH'er's tenure.

At the time, only the National Cancer Institute and the Division of Research Grants formally existed at NIH. Later that year, the same act that pluralized "Institutes" in NIH's name established the National Heart Institute. The National Institute of Dental Research debuted that fall. NIH's total appropriation: just over \$24.6 million.

Fast forward to 2010. Barack Obama is President. NIH, part of the Department of Health and Human Services since 1953, is led by Dr. Francis Collins. The agency counts 99 buildings on its Bethesda campus alone and operates 27 institutes and centers with an annual appropriation topping \$30 billion, not including stimulus funds. Lots of changes can occur in 62 years, through 12 Presidents and 11 NIH directors. And Jackson, now 80 years old, admittedly has enjoyed witnessing the action from his front-row seat.

Recently, he was persuaded by his wife and daughters to retire from federal service. During a meeting to document his momentous career, however, he was quick to note that he's not actually leaving the job.

"I'll still be working here for 4 hours, 3 days a week," he said, smiling broadly, "so I'm not really going anywhere."

As several well-wishers dropped by, Jackson reminisced about the NIH of old. "There were just 6 buildings on the campus back when I came here," he said, marveling at the agency's growth over the last 6 decades, "and T-6 was the smallest. [Bldg.] 31 was built in T-6's place." A research hospital also had been authorized and funding for it appropriated by Congress; Clinical Center construction, however, was still 5 years from completion.

Over the course of his career, Jackson has probably performed nearly every job associated with research lab set-up, resources and equipment,



Dr. Ethan Shevach (l) and Dr. William Paul (r) of NIAID's Laboratory of Immunology congratulate Clarence Jackson on his recent retirement.

including supplying glassware and handling animal cages. For a while, he did some filing at an NIH outpost on River Rd. For the last 4 decades, however, he's worked in the same lab along the 11th floor north corridor of the Clinical Center.

"Clarence Jackson basically sees that the Laboratory of Immunology works," said Dr. William Paul, chief of the NIAID lab, who has worked with Jackson since July 1968. That's 41½ years. "He simply makes our lab function and he's been doing a great job of it for quite a long time. We've been very fortunate."

"Mr. Jackson has facilitated the operation of my laboratory for as long as I can remember," added Dr. Ethan Shevach, chief of the lab's cellular immunology section. "It is always a pleasure to greet him early in the morning when I come in, knowing that things will operate smoothly during the course of the day."

Nicole Yung and Victor Hermenegildo, IRTA graduate students, have been working as research support personnel with Jackson for 9 years in the Laboratory of Immunology.

"Since we started working," they wrote in an email, "Mr. Jackson was and still is very dedicated to his job. He was very dependable, precise, respectful and punctual. Mr. Jackson made our working experience fun. Although we don't know much about football, he loves to share his Redskins moments with everyone at the workplace. We are going to miss him as our team leader because he knew how to coordinate the lab."

Yung noted that Jackson "always has a big smile on his face and is ready to help if you need it. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his leadership, friendship and example and wish him the very best on his retirement."

Hermenegildo said he grew especially close to Jackson, whose work ethic and manner remind Hermenegildo of his father. "During the times that I was taking classes, Mr. Jackson knew how to give me privacy when I was studying. He always gave me advice and motivation to become successful in the final stages of my studies...we would like to let Mr. Jackson know that we congratulate him on his retirement and wish him the best luck in what his plans are from here on."

According to NIH's Human Resources Systems, Analytics and Information Division, the average length of employment for people who retire from NIH is 21.6 years. Whether 62 years is an HHS record is hard to determine officially, but it is the longest duration of employment here in the last 5 years. In fact, not since 1996 has an NIH'er—the late Roskey Jennings, also of NIAID—served a longer time—66 years—on the job.

If Jackson has his way, that record is in jeopardy.

"I just really enjoy it here," Jackson concluded. "The people are nice and I like what I do. Why would I want to stay home?" 🍌